REMARKS

The Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter of claim 4 is noted with appreciation.

Claims 1-7 are pending in the application. Independent claim 1 has been amended to better define the claimed invention. Claims 2-4 and 7 have been amended to improve claim language. A new drawing, e.g., FIG. 10, has been added. The specification has been revised to remove the improper incorporation by reference statement, and to provide a brief description of and a reference to the newly added figure. No new matter has been introduced through the foregoing amendments.

The objections to the drawings and specification are believed overcome in view of the above amendments.

The *35 U.S.C. 102* rejections of claims 1-3 and 5-7 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,683,299 and/or EP 0 861 993 are noted. Independent claim 1 has been amended to overcome these rejections. In particular, amended independent claim 1 now requires a deformation member comprising a **main deformation portion supporting a front surface of the damper**, as seen in the direction in which the pulley rotates. The applied references clearly fail to disclose, teach or suggest the newly added feature.

In the claim rejection under 35 USC §102, the Examiner states that *Kishibushi et al.* (US 5,683,299 and EP 0,861,993 A2) disclose deformation members of the present invention. However, holder member 13 of US 5,683,299 supports only **side** surfaces, i.e., radially inner and outer surfaces of connection member 7, as seen in a direction in which pulley 1 rotates, and cylindrical wall 12 of EP 0,861,993 A2 supports only **side** surfaces, i.e., radially outer surfaces of elastic connection member 15 as seen in a direction in which pulley 1 rotates. In contrast, the deformation member of the claimed invention supports a **front** surface of the damper as seen in a direction in which the pulley rotates. *See*, also attached Exhibit A.

The structural difference between the claimed invention and the applied references also results in significant operational differences. When an overload is applied to the compressor, in *Kishibuchi et al.,* US 5,683,299, power transmission from the driving source is cut off by deformation of elastic connection member 7 (*see* Figures 6-8 of US 5,683,299), and in *Kishsibuchi et al.*, EP 0,861,993 A2, power transmission from the driving source is cut off by deformation of elastic connecting member 15. In contrast, in the claimed invention, when an overload is applied to the compressor, power transmission from the driving source is cut off by deformation of the deformation member, rather than the damper. Thus, in the claimed invention, when an abnormal torque is generated, the power transmission from the driving source can be cut off regardless of the modulus of elasticity of an elastic member which can be easily varied by changes in temperature and humidity.

Accordingly, amended independent claim 1 is believed patentable over the applied references. Claims 2-7 depend from claim 1, and are considered patentable at least for the reason advanced with respect to amended claim 1. Claim 4 is also patentable on its own merit as indicated in page 6 of the Office Action.

Each of the Examiner's rejections has been traversed/overcome. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims are now in condition for allowance. Early and favorable indication of allowance is courteously solicited.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned, Applicant's attorney of record, to facilitate advancement of the present application.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 07-1337 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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